Concept Note (Draft)

1. Title

Multistakeholder Consultations for Samoa on the Pacific Internet Exchange Point (IXP) Proposal (Virtual Meetings), 25 August 2021, 16:00-17:30 (Apia time)

2. Overview

The establishment of subregional Internet Exchange Points (IXPs) can improve Internet's affordability, latency and traffic capacity. Yet, in the Pacific, few countries have established IXPs. Papua New Guinea and Fiji established national IXPs in 2017 with assistance from Internet Society, APNIC and other partners. It resulted in a 10% decrease of Internet services price in PNG[1] and Internet latency in Fiji between local operators improving significantly from 60ms to 2ms.[2] However, the majority of other Pacific Island countries does not have IXPs.

To this effect, a capacity building workshop of the Asia-Pacific Information Superhighway (AP-IS) was held in 2019 to discuss improving Internet traffic management through an IXP. Seven Pacific Island countries[3] expressed interest. Solomon Islands requested the ESCAP secretariat to organize a follow-up capacity building workshop, to exchange ideas on how to operationalise the Pacific IXP proposal.[4] A second capacity building workshop was held in 2020[5], which was followed by national consultations in the target countries (Fiji, Samoa and New Zealand) to raise awareness of various domestic stakeholders (regulators, national Internet exchanges, telecom operators, and ministries of ICTs) regarding possible options to build the Pacific IXP.

The national consultations found general support from various domestic stakeholders in the target countries towards establishing the Pacific IXP and Samoa requested the ESCAP secretariat and partners to facilitate building consensus and arrangement on establishing of the Pacific IXPs through a memorandum of agreement among key stakeholders (service providers) of the 3 target countries.

3. Objective

The objective of this multistakeholder consultation is to share with key stakeholders a draft Guideline for inputs on the operationalization strategy plan for building the Pacific IXP in the platform of Asia-Pacific Information Superhighway (AP-IS). In addition, to discuss a draft Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) for the establishment of the Pacific IXP.

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[1] https://news.pngfacts.com/2017/01/connection-to-ixp-facility-to-see-fall.html
[2] https://www.pacnog.org/pacnog22/presentations/Fiji-IX-update.pdf
[3] Kiribati, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tuvalu, Tonga, Vanuatu
[4] https://www.unescap.org/events/strengthening-efficient-internet-traffic-management-through-subregional-internet-exchange
[5] https://www.unescap.org/events/second-working-group-pacific-internet-exchange-point-ixp-and-capacity-training-workshop-ixp-s

4. Dates and Mode of Meeting

a) Date: 25 August 2021, 16:00-17:30 (Apia time)

b) Mode: Virtual meeting (MS Teams)

5. Target Participants (By Invitation Only)

Government officials in the Ministry responsible for ICT, Internet Exchange Point Authority, Regulator, and Internet Service Providers.

5. Programme (Draft)

SAMOA **Multistakeholder consultations in Pacific island countries on the Pacific Internet Exchange Point (IXP) Proposal (Virtual Meeting), 25 August 16:00-17:30 (Apia time)[6]** **Programme (Draft)**
Moderator: Ms. Cristina Bernal Aparicio, Consultant, ICT and Disaster Risk Reduction Division, ESCAP
Opening (2 mins) • Mr. Tae Hyung Kim, Chief of Section, ICT and Disaster Risk Reduction Division, ESCAP
Progress on the Pacific IXP work (5 mins) • Mr. Siope Vakataki Ofa, Economic Affairs Officer, ICT and Disaster Risk Reduction Division, ESCAP
Guideline on operationalizing the **Pacific IXP (10 mins)** • Dr. Paul Brooks, ESCAP consultant
Comments/Questions (30 min) • Comments/remarks by Samoa's Ministry of Communications and Information Technology • Comments/remarks by Samoa's Office of the Regulator (TBC)
Presentation of the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) (10 mins) • Mr. Siope Vakataki 'Ofa, Economic Affairs Officer, ICT and Development Section, ICT and Disaster Risk Reduction Division, ESCAP

[6] Bangkok, Thailand Tue, 24 Aug 2021 at 10:00 ICT, Sydney, Australia Tue, 24 Aug 2021 at 13:00 AEST, Apia, Samoa Tue, 24 Aug 2021 at 16:00 WST, and Madrid, Spain Tue, 24 Aug 2021 at 05:00 CEST

Discussions on the MOU (30 min) • Comments/remarks by Samoa's Ministry of Communications and Information Technology • Comments/remarks by Samoa's Office of the Regulator (TBC)
Closing & way forward (3 mins) • Mr. Siope Vakataki Ofa, Economic Affairs Officer, ICT and Disaster Risk Reduction Division, ESCAP